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THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant : Ulrich Doering et al.

Art Unit : 3673

Serial No. : 10/714,450

Examiner : Unknown

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Title : OPERATING TABLE

Mail Stop Amendment

Commissioner for Patents

P.O. Box 1450

Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

REPLY TO ACTION OF SEPTEMBER 9, 2004

In reply to the Office Action of September 9, 2004, Applicant submits the following remarks.

Claims 1-17 are pending, with claims 1, 8, and 11 being independent.

35 U.S.C. § 102 Rejection

Claims 1-4 and 8-13 have been rejected as allegedly anticipated by PCT Patent Application WO 01/72226 A1 ("Zachrisson"). Applicants request withdrawal of this rejection because Zachrisson fails to disclose or suggest the subject matter of independent claims 1, 8, and 11.

Claims 1 and 8 recite an operating table that includes a bearing column, a table top that is mounted on the bearing column and that is displaceable from a middle position transversely to a longitudinal axis of the table and tiltable about a tilting axis that is substantially parallel to the longitudinal axis of the table. Claim 1 further includes a control device that automatically activates a transverse displacement of the table top in a direction towards the middle position during a tilting movement. Claim 8 further includes a means for automatically activating a transverse displacement of the table top in a direction towards the middle position during a tilting movement.

Claim 11 recites a method of supporting an operating table, where the method includes supporting a table top of the operating table on a bearing column, tilting the table top about a tilting axis that is substantially parallel to a longitudinal axis of the table, and automatically